



SENATOR GRAY. MRS. GRAY. WHITELAW REID. MRS. REID. SENATOR FRYE. MRS. FRYE. SENATOR DAVIS. MRS. DAVIS. JUDGE DAY AND FAMILY.

Our Peace Commission Disembarking on the Dock of the St. Louis.

PRESIDENT M'KINLEY GETS PEACE TREATY CHRISTMAS EVE.

AGUNALDO IS A GREAT MAN, SAYS GEN. WHITTIER.

(Continued from Page Twenty-five.)

WHAT THE PEACE COMMISSIONERS SAY.

CHAIRMAN WILLIAM R. DAY—We are still on a diplomatic mission. Until our report has been made public by the President we do not consider our mission at an end. It remains with the President and Senate to validate what we have done. It is natural to assume that we worked with a view to having our efforts approved, and some think that we have accomplished as much as we started out to accomplish.

SENATOR WILLIAM F. FRYE—At the beginning the Spanish Commissioners, through President Rios, said that the first step was for us to evacuate Manila and remove all our forces from the Philippines, and that then we should be able to complete the peace negotiations in short order. They fought every proposition, but most fiercely did they contest the matter of the Cuban debt and the Philippines. Three times it seemed as if the peace negotiations would be broken off, but each time the Spanish Commissioners gave in. We, of course, told them that the United States would assume no indebtedness, except for municipal improvements or some such matter. I believe Spain will repudiate the Cuban debt.

WHITELAW REID—I cannot say anything for publication, because the Commission has decided that our mission is not concluded until we have reported to the President and have been discharged.

SENATOR CUSHMAN K. DAVIS—We were sent over with a very clear and exact outline of what America wanted of Spain, and the Commission was determined, even in face of a possible renewal of the war, to carry out the intentions of the American Government. I am pleased to say that in our negotiations with the Spanish Commissioners we got not only what we set out to get, but more.

SENATOR GEORGE GRAY—I am debared from talking about the treaty, and, therefore, from talking about its effect. I have very decided views on the subject of expansion, and will express them in the Senate. I have heard that William Jennings Bryan favors the treaty, but is against expansion, and that Mr. Carnegie is also not against expansion. Doubtless a large number of the conservative citizens of the country hold this view on the subject. The treaty leaves our hands free to do as we choose. The future disposition of the Philippines rests with us. We can keep them or dispose of them as seems fit and just to us.

Senator Gray, when asked about the report that the Commissioners were to receive \$100,000 each for their services, said:

"The matter of compensation is doubtless engaging more of some other people's attention than that of the Commissioners. I doubt if any member of the Commission ever gave the subject a moment's thought."

citizens of the country take that view. My own position on the matter, as I have told, I will express in the Senate. The treaty we have just made, if ratified, binds us to nothing in this regard. The destiny of the Philippines is in our hands, to do with them what seems fit and just, and expedient. The country will have its say at the last.

The next question made the Senator and Commissioner smile. It related to the reports that two of the Commissioners were to receive a fee of \$100,000 for their services abroad. It was asked tentatively, lest the personal nature of it should offend.

"I am sure," said Senator Gray, "that other people are bothering a great deal more about that than the Commissioners. I do not think any one of us has given the subject a thought."

Senator Cushman K. Davis, of Minnesota, was also disposed to be reticent on the subject yesterday. He was asked as to what figure Agoncillo, the Philippine representative of Aguinaldo, had cut before the Commission.

He answered: "Agoncillo never appeared before the Commission. He came to see me several times in relation to it, but he never met the Commission formally. On his visits to me he asked how he should obtain a hearing, and I advised him that he should write a letter to the President of the Commission stating what representations he desired to make and requesting a hearing. I thought, but he was anxious to be heard, I thought, but he was not to be heard. In his conversation to me he never got so far along as to tell me what he wished to ask for."

The attention of Senator Davis was called to a published interview with President Montero Rios, of the Spanish Commission, in which Senator Rios was quoted as declaring that the Standards had simply submitted to greater force, that the Commission of which he was the head had to deal with an implacable enemy and an upstart, unquarrelsome, and that the terms of the treaty were dictated entirely on the theory that might makes right and without reference to principles of generosity or honor.

Rios a Gentleman
Senator Davis said he did not believe Rios had been correctly quoted.

"If Rios said that he is a fool," was the strong sentence of the reply. "It is not like him to make any such statement. He is an able man and a gentleman."

On the way across the ocean Senator Davis was more outspoken on the subject of the work in which he had a part. At the concert and dinner given on board last Thursday for the benefit of the Seamen's Orphanage he presided, and, according to

passengers who heard him, he made a speech in this wise:

"We were sent over there with a clear and direct outline of what America wanted from Spain. And the commission was determined that not even possibility of the renewal of war would deter it from carrying out its instructions. All along the Spanish Commissioners opposed our every demand, and at one time it seemed as if negotiations would be broken off. But Spain saw the futility of fighting finally, and conceded everything at the last—the Cuban debt, the Philippines and all."

Davis for Expansion.

"It is the manifest destiny of America to extend her possessions and trade in the East. We have no alternative, having obtained these possessions; we must retain them."

He concluded: "There is no question that our nation is competent to fulfil the trust that has fallen to it. Of our own part in this work we are proud. We not only got all we were sent to get, but more. The ladies of the party, and there are many of them, all expressed themselves as delighted with their experiences in Paris."

"We all stayed together at the Continental Hotel," said Mrs. Frye, "and I think we all had a very pleasant time. Our husbands being occupied, we naturally had a good deal of time to ourselves and we saw Paris thoroughly."

"Most of us spent the greater part of our time in Paris. Paris is a paradise to shop in. I personally visited friends, and everywhere we went we were kindly treated. The French press was very discourteous, but an easy way to avoid the annoyance in that direction was not to read the papers. And that plan most of us adopted."

The Commission party consisted of thirty-four persons in all. With President Day was Mrs. Day; with Senator Davis, Mrs. Davis; with Senator Frye, Mrs. Frye; with Senator Gray, Mrs. Gray and the two Misses Gray; and with Whitelaw Reid, Mrs. Reid.

Resides there were Arthur W. Ferguson, the American interpreter, with his wife and son; Dr. J. Rodriguez, translator, and Mrs. Rodriguez; W. E. Speers, a French interpreter; Frank Brannan and Mrs. Brannan, the disbursing agent; Rutherford Calvert, attaché and Professor Moore, secretary and counselor, with two assistant secretaries, and a dark background of valets, maids, etc.

PRESIDENT GETS THE TREATY ON CHRISTMAS EVE.

Judge Day, for the Commission, Presents the Document in the Blue Room.

Washington, Dec. 24.—President McKinley received from the American Peace Commission late this afternoon the treaty of peace between the United States and Spain.

presenting this momentous document, Judge Day, as chairman of the Commission, said it represented the earnest efforts of the American representatives at Paris, and it was submitted with the hope that it would rebound to the peace, credit and glory of the American nation.

Accepting the treaty from the hands of Judge Day, the President responded with heartfelt thanks and congratulations to the Commission as a body and to the members individually.

The Commission arrived here from New York on a schooner the day before yesterday. John B. Moore, late Assistant Secretary of State and legal adviser of the Commission, carried with him a huge yellow leather case, containing the treaty.

Judge Day was the first to grasp the President's hand at the White House; then followed the personal exchanges in the case of the peace treaty. Before going inside Mr. Moore opened the case and from it took the treaty, which is in a morocco binding about the size of a large encyclopedia. Then, joining Senator Gray, they proceeded together to the private vestibule. Mr. Moore carrying the treaty under his arm.

All the members of the Commission being now assembled, the President led the way to the blue room.

Besides the President, Secretary Hay and the Commissioners, there were present Arthur W. Ferguson, official interpreter; also Messrs. Hay and Gray, sons of the Secretary and Senator, and several ladies of the party.

The President stood at the further end of the room, where the treaty was handed to him. Taking the treaty, Judge Day addressed the President.

Judge Day returned with the President to the blue room. Mr. Reid returned to New York to-night. Senator Gray went to his home in Delaware, and Senator Davis and Frye remain at their homes in Washington.

Small Fire Causes Panic.

A small fire on the top floor of the four-story hotel occupied by the peace commissioners, caused a panic yesterday among the tenants. No one was hurt and the blaze was quickly extinguished.

Merritt's Assistant Inspector-General Praises Highly the Filipino Leader.

DIPLOMAT AND A SOLDIER.

One of the Ablest Young Men the American Soldier Says, That He Has Ever Met.

General C. A. Whittier, who was Assistant Inspector-General on General Merritt's staff in Manila, returned on the St. Louis with the Peace Commissioners. He was on duty in Manila until October 31, when he was ordered to report to the Peace Commission at Paris. From August 20 to October 31 he was really the Government of Manila. During that time the port of Manila produced about \$1,000,000 of revenue.

"A million dollars should not be considered as an average return from Manila," said General Whittier, yesterday. "Matters were absolutely chaotic when I took hold. Under civilized control it would be much more. With improved methods the richness of the Philippines is incalculable. The natives are thrifty and pretty well informed. They require either no government or one that will not interfere with their habits. They will be restive under a vigorous government, but a little tact will insure peace in the islands."

"Aguinaldo? Yes, I met him and he comes nearer being a great man than any man of twenty-nine years I ever knew. Remember, we count a man of twenty-nine as little more than a boy. He was able to hold his own with us in every conference. There are no more skillful diplomats than Admiral Dewey and General Merritt in the world, but this Filipino boy has never been placed at a disadvantage by either."

"Take his military career. Could any man have done better? He went to Manila alone with Dewey, and when Dewey called on the Spanish authorities to remove their women and children and prepare for a siege, they answered that Aguinaldo's insurgents had them hemmed in so they could not get the non-combatants to a place of safety."

General Whittier was asked for his views on the recent slaughter of Filipinos by the Spanish troops at Iloilo.

"We have expected something of the sort from the beginning," he said, "but the result is a surprise. I supposed we would hear of a Spanish reprisal instead. We have nothing to do with a fight between Spaniards and Filipinos, though this will be stopped in the future."

General Whittier said Admiral Dewey was not the dictator of the Philippines any longer. When General Merritt arrived he found the Philippines divided between Aguinaldo and Dewey, and when General Dewey stayed in his flagship and Aguinaldo's insurgents had them hemmed in so they could not get the non-combatants to a place of safety."

FILIPINO'S ENVOY DEMANDS INDEPENDENCE.

Felipe Agoncillo, who, with the rank of general in the army of Aguinaldo and as the representative of the Philippines, has been in Paris during the session of the Peace Commission, arrived in this city yesterday on the steamship Etruria. It was his second visit, he having sailed from here for Paris on October 4. In the interim he has not perceptibly improved his English, and speaks it brokenly and with difficulty. His secretary, Licio Lopez, is able to express himself rather more fluently. As the result of a somewhat laborious interview with Agoncillo, his views on the Philippine republic are as follows: "I cannot say whether I am satisfied or not with the results of the deliberations of the Peace Commission, because, so far as the Philippines are concerned, nothing has yet been decided. That is a subject still to be settled between the United States and my own people."

Expects Absolute Independence.
"What we ask, and what we expect, is absolute independence. I deem that the honor of the United States is pledged to that, or it was distinctly declared, at the beginning of the war between the United States and Spain, that the United States was fighting only for humanity and not for territory."

In addition to that, all the dealings between American and Filipino officers and officials were based on the assumption that the Philippines were to be independent. Spain had no right over us, and therefore could not make the blockade or annexation. How can one country take what the other



General Felipe Agoncillo, Official Representative of the Filipinos.

cannot give? It would be illogical and unjust."

"But I feel sure that there will be no trouble, and that everything will come out all right. The Philippines are capable of self-government. There need be no fear on the part of the United States. A permanent Philippine republic would be a dignified and creditable government, with great possibilities for the future."

Agoncillo said that before leaving Paris he filed his formal protest with the Peace Commission, to put on record the position that the Philippines held.

"It seemed to General Agoncillo and the Philippine republic," said he, "that the Philippine question should not be discussed unless the representative of the Philippines had both a seat and an equal voice at the conference. Of course, therefore, it was out duty to protest, when it seemed that the United States and Spain acted as if they had the right to dispose of us without any consent on our part. I cannot discuss the point further than that."

He Will Go to Washington.
"But," continued the representative of the Philippines, "I have confidence that everything will come out right. I am going to Washington from here and I expect to have a conference with President McKinley, and all matters will be gone over fully."

"Of course, in all this I am but a representative of my government and act under instructions as I receive them. I understand that on January 3 three more Filipino representatives will arrive at Washington from Hong Kong. They are Juan Luna, Dr. Lozano and General Riego. How can one country take what the other

cannot give? It would be illogical and unjust. Frequently in the course of the interview the General escaped from too close questioning by pleading ignorance of the language, and at such times no amount of explanation would suffice to make the point clear. Agoncillo was a member of Aguinaldo's Cabinet in the rebellion against Spain. Before the fall of Manila all the native officials promulgated a document giving Agoncillo powers as Minister Plenipotentiary to all the world. He was an active agent of Aguinaldo, and almost his co-adjutor, especially in matters relating to banking and financial interests and the procuring of supplies. He has had considerable diplomatic experience. "I cannot say more than I have said of myself or than my definite instructions from my home Government permit," he said in conclusion. "The Philippines fought bravely as allies of the United States forces, and I do not think that this great American Republic will treat us in any degree unfairly."

Agoncillo was driven to the Holland House, and expects to leave for Washington this morning.

but we had a pleasant time in Paris. Don't you think so, Mrs. Davis?"

Senator Davis's wife did think so with emphasis and animation, and after that President Day would discuss nothing but the weather, the harbor and the friends they made abroad.

Senator Frye, of Maine, and Whitelaw Reid, editor of the Tribune, stood together looking over the side. "I can say nothing for publication," said Whitelaw Reid, and he repeated this to one of his own reporters a moment later. "The Commission does not consider that it is discharged of its obligation to refrain from discussing its work until the President has its report."

Then he moved away.

Frye Has N. Doubts.

Senator Frye was shown the published account of the treaty, and after looking it over, found a seat for Mrs. Frye and squared himself to be interviewed. He is used to it.

"I suppose," said his questioner, "that the treaty is now virtually the agreement between the nations."

"That is what the Senator," except for the formal ratification, I anticipate no difficulty about that. According to the publication, the result of the Spanish Cortes is not required. The Queen Regent agrees for Spain, and the Senate and President for the United States."

"That may not be so. Not that concealment is necessary, but the requirements of the case demand it as a matter of courtesy."

"In the first place, the Spanish Commissioners, through their president, Montero Rios, met us with a proposition like this: 'We, gentlemen, the United States will evacuate Manila and withdraw the American legions and navy from the Philippine Islands, give up the control of the customs of the islands and then we will consider the peace negotiations, and I am sure we shall finish them quickly and amicably.'"

"Without commenting on this proposition, I will say that we were surprised at the cheerful confidence of Senator Rios. He is a remarkable man, the most astute statesman we met abroad."

"Through President Day we expressed our surprise and told them how impossible such a demand was."

Spanish Fought Bitterly.
"Wasn't this just a Spanish bluff, given with the idea that if they demanded a great deal they might get a very little?" he was asked.

"You are as competent to judge of that as I. They certainly fought hard on their side. We refused, and they urged and they begged and they finally submitted."

"That was a sample of the proceedings. Every proposition was fought by the Spaniards as if it represented the last ditch of their defenses and there was a great deal behind. The two propositions on which they made the hardest fight were the Philippine matter and the Cuban debt. They demanded that we assume the entire Cuban debt, and they held to it to the verge of breaking off negotiations."

"We were present in Paris the president of the Spanish Campaign, Transatlantique, a Marquis. He is the chief owner of the line, and he inspired the Spanish Commissioners with the idea that they might give up everything else, so long as they did not yield on the proposition that Americans must pay the Cuban bonds."

At the Breaking Point.

"The Marquis said to them, 'Give up what you please, but the Cuban debt must be assumed by the Americans.' I have been told that this Marquis holds a large number of Cuban bonds, and their payment or repudiation meant to him a huge fortune or bankruptcy."

"Their stance on this subject made it appear that they gave up the sovereignty of Cuba and Porto Rico without a real effort of resistance."

"We argued with them for days, and finally had to give them to understand that that first or last the United States assumed no debt, excepting perhaps where it represented improvements, and that certainly the United States would never think of paying the Cuban debt."

"This position caused a split and a halt in the joint commission. Three separate times they apparently withdrew and it each time as if negotiations must end and the war go on."

"Finally we delivered to them an ultimatum. They must, without more discussion, meet our terms or the negotiations would be broken off and Spain would have to bear the bitter consequences. They took time to consider, and the next day they accepted our terms, and the negotiations proceeded to a rapid close."

Rios a Great Man.

"Our work in Paris inspired me with a great admiration for Rios. He is certainly an able man, one of the ablest I know. I would not be understood as depreciating the quality of the other Spanish Commissioners, but they acted through Rios, and certainly men at their disadvantage never had a stronger spokesman."

"Our relations with the Spanish Commissioners were particularly cordial, and have been given to understand."

"Cordially," mused the Senator.